

The Mirror

OF

LITERATURE, AMUSEMENT, AND INSTRUCTION.

No. 1048.]

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1841.

[Price 2d.



THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S COTTAGE, ST. JAMES'S PARK.

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S COTTAGE,

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THE Ornithological Society was formed in the metropolis, in the year 1837; having, to quote the original prospectus, "no privileges to claim or to offer, except those of rendering service to science, and contributing to the amusements and information of the public." It addressed itself to "all lovers of the beauty of nature, to all who can appreciate the charm which the feathered tribe—that most beautiful portion of the animal creation—are capable of lending to ornamental water." The object of the Society is, to obtain—to preserve, as far as possible, in a state of nature, and to bring under the notice of all classes and ages, on the waters of the Parks, (beginning with that of St. James's)—a complete collection of the British species of the genus *Anas* of Linneus, from the swan, (who has held for ages this sole privilege,) to the smallest of the ducks, and ultimately to include specimens of every species of hardy aquatic birds;—Waders, Swimmers, and Divers. The idea was a most happy one; and has, we believe, been successfully carried out during the four years that have elapsed since the formation of the Society. It may, perhaps, be regarded as an offshoot of the Zoological Society, which, in its turn, had originated from the Linnean Society. And we are disposed to consider this *subdivision of science*, such as is exemplified in the establishment of numerous societies devoted to an especial department, has materially contributed to its advancement and diffusion.*

The Ornithological Society now enjoys the honour of the patronage of H. R. H. Prince Albert;† and during the past year, the Council obtained permission to erect the Cottage represented in the prefixed engraving. It occupies the eastern extremity of the Island in St. James's Park, nearly opposite to the State Paper Office, and Treasury. The design, by John Burges Watson, Esq., presents a pleasing specimen of the Swiss style, or *cottage ornée*. It contains a Council room; apartments for the resident keeper; and a room fitted with steam apparatus for hatching eggs similar to that employed at the Eccelesbion Exhibition, in Pall Mall. Contiguous to the cottage are places for rearing the young birds; and feeding-places

and decoys for catching surplus birds for distribution among the members of the Society, and their friends throughout the kingdom. The various aquatic fowl likewise breed on the island, making their own nests among the shrubs and grasses.

The prefixed Engraving has been copied, by permission, from a clever lithograph by Mr. Watson; which is appropriately dedicated to the noble President of the Society.

SLEEP AND DEATH,

BY SIR THOMAS BROWNE.

WE term Sleep a Death, and yet it is the waking that kills us, and destroys those spirits that are the house of life. 'Tis, indeed, a part of life that best expresseth death; for every man truly lives so long as he acts his nature, or some way makes good the faculties of himself. Themistocles, therefore, that slew his soldier in his sleep, was a merciful executioner: 'tis a kind of punishment the mildness of no laws hath invented. I wonder the fancy of Lucan and Seneca did not discover it. It is that death by which we may be said to die daily; a death which Adam died before his mortality; a death whereby we live a middle and moderating point between life and death; in fine, *so like death, I dare not trust it without my prayers*, and an half adieu unto the world, and take my farewell in a colloquy with God:

The night is come like to the day;
Depart not thou, great God, away.
Let not my sins, black as the night,
Eclipse the lustre of thy light.
Keep still in my horizon, for to me
The sun makes not the day, but thee.
Thou whose nature cannot sleep,
On my temples sentry keep;
Guard me 'gainst those watchful foes
Whose eyes are open while mine close.
Let no dreams my head infest,
But such as Jacob's temples blest.
While I do rest my soul advance;
Make my sleep a holy trance;
That I may, my rest being wrought,
Awake into some holy thought.
And with as active vigour run
My course, as doth the nimble sun.
Sleep is a death, O make me try,
By sleeping what it is to die;
And as gently lay my head
On my grave, as on my bed.
Howe'er I rest, great God, let me
Awake again, at least with thee.
And thus assured, behold I lie
Securely; or to wake or die.
These are my drowsy days; in vain
I do now wake to sleep again;
O, come that hour, when I shall never
Sleep again, but wake for ever.*

This is the dormative I take to bed-ward:
I need no other laudanum than this to make
me sleep; after which I close mine eyes in
security, content to take my leave of the
sun, and sleep unto the Resurrection.—
Religio Medici, part ii. sect. xii. pp. 61, 62.

* Surely, "the Morning Hymn" of our Church
service is a paraphrase of the latter portion of this
beautiful prayer.—ED. M.

* We were among the earliest journalists to congratulate the public, in 1827, upon their boon of the hitherto private portion of St. James's Park. It now presents one of the best specimens of landscape gardening in or near the metropolis, especially when viewed from the windows of Buckingham Palace; and we can scarcely imagine a more gratifying sight than this scene of popular recreation, this "public walk" of the metropolis, must present to the royal residents.

† President of the Society, the Duke of Queensbury; Secretaries, H. Chester and W. Hall, Esqrs.

BUSTS OF THE TWELVE CÆSARS.

ABOUT the year 1518, twelve busts of the Roman Emperors, executed in *terra cotta*, beautifully enamelled, and nearly the size of life, were forwarded to Cardinal Wolsey, to decorate his palace of Hampton-Court, by Pope Leo X.

Eight of these splendid works of art have always existed in the first and second courts at the palace; but not one of the remaining four to complete the valuable series could be found until within the last few months, although many years ago, strict search was made for them by the various authorities connected with Hampton-Court. In the reign of George IV., the search was again renewed, but with no better result than hitherto. A few months since, however, one of the missing busts was, by accident, discovered in fine preservation, in a back room in Hampton-Court Palace. Another of the series has also been recovered, by mere chance, in a cottage close to the stag-paddocks in Windsor Great Park. In some alterations, the workmen found this bust fixed in the wall, about ten feet from the floor. Within the last few days, the third of the missing busts has been discovered by Mr. Jesse, the surveyor of woods and works, at the World's-end Lodge, in the Great Park: it was found let into the external wall of the lodge, and was considered by the inmates to be a bust of Queen Anne! Of so little value was it supposed to be, that the boys of the neighbourhood, as they passed the cottage, have frequently amused themselves with pelting the assumed bust of Queen Anne with stones and clay; notwithstanding which it is very slightly injured, small portions of the enamel being chipped off. This bust, together with the two others recently found, will very shortly be removed to appropriate places in the first and second courts at Hampton-Court Palace. Still, the twelfth bust of the series remains to be discovered.—*Abridged from the Times.*

Mr. Jesse, in his popular account of Hampton Court Palace, makes but very slight mention of the above busts; beautiful as they may be, they are dispatched in three lines, thus: "On the turrets, on each side of the archways, (between the first and second courts,) there are busts of the Roman Emperors, which were sent to Wolsey by Pope Leo X., for the purpose of ornamenting his palace." This, it will be admitted, is but a very vague notice of these beautiful works of art: we are not even informed as to the number of the busts. The truth is, Mr. Jesse is an excellent hand at an anecdote; but when he attempts to describe Hampton-Court Palace architecturally, he fails altogether. Of his pleasing little volume some thousands have been sold, though more from the author's official standing, and the beautiful style in which

the work has been produced, than from its literary merit. Neither, are these busts mentioned in *The Stranger's Guide*, sold to visitors, in the palace; though five whole pages are occupied with details of Wolsey's magnificent living at Hampton Court, quoted from Cavendish. This, by the way, is the besetting sin of our guide-books: they are ten times more communicative on the objects they describe as they existed centuries since, than as they now stand: the first information the authors find "cut and dry" to their hand, whilst they must record the other from their own observation, if they study the completeness of their work.

In *The Ambulator*, 12th edition, 1820, corrected by Mr. Brayley, we find it stated that the portal of the first quadrangle at Hampton Court is "decorated with the heads of four of the Cæsars; namely, Tiberius, Vitellius, Trajan, and Adrian." In the second quadrangle is a portal of brick, "adorned also with four heads of the Cæsars, without names."

The circumstance of the bust at the lodge in Windsor Great Park being mistaken for Queen Anne, reminds us of an ignorant engraver, who, having to "letter" two portraits—Julius Cæsar and Charlemagne—reversed the inscriptions; and his blunder passed muster!

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—III.

"Let philanthropic feelings rise
In every mortal human breast;
In union's bond true greatness lies,
When formed to succour the distress'd.
When blest with health, in time provide
For ills unseen, some prudent plan,
Where, in distress, we can confide:
Friendless, how impotent is man!"

ONE of the most general and pernicious errors connected with the management of Friendly Societies is, the insufficiency of their contributions for the benefits offered. However wise and prudent a Society may be conducted in other respects, however sober, temperate, and careful the members, and healthy the district in which they live, an error in the computations may overthrow all their plans, and bring upon them inevitable ruin. Habits of irregularity and dissipation may, fortunately, be eradicated; mismanagement and misapplication of funds corrected; but the evils entailed by too low a scale of payments for a few years, are of an irredeemable character, cannot possibly be overcome, subject the individuals to the worst privations, and like "all inadequate schemes, lay the foundation of present relief on future calamity; and afford assistance to a few by disappointing and distressing multitudes."

Attention to this feature of Friendly Societies is, therefore, of paramount importance, and merits the first and principal consi-

deration. In the infancy of a Society the members are generally healthy and young, less subject to sickness and disease than in more advanced years; consequently, the liabilities must be much less, when the majority of its members are between 20 and 30 years of age, than when between 60 and 70. The average amount of sickness experienced by individuals, over the whole of the former period of ten years, is eight weeks; but over the latter period it is no less than 59 weeks. It then follows that the expenditure during those two periods of a Friendly Society, will be in the proportion of 8 to 59. Accordingly, the examination of plan A. in the second article on this subject, shews that the expenditure during the five years preceding 1800 was 997*l.*; while in the like period preceding 1840, when the society contained only about one-third of the former number of members, it amounted to the very great sum of 3144*l.* This must appear a somewhat remarkable circumstance to those who, for the first time, now look at the risks of a Society under a prospective view—its income reduced to *one-third* of its former amount, and its expenses increased nearly eight times. Nothing short, then, of an abundant provision in the early periods of a Society can be sufficient to meet the enormous expenditure of its advanced stages. It has frequently happened, that members, seeing the rapid increase of the funds of a Society when first established, not looking forward to their subsequent liabilities, have reduced their future contributions, or augmented their benefits; but in most cases in which so unfortunate an expedient has been adopted, insolvency and its harassing consequences have followed.

To many we are aware it must be a new idea, that the risks of a Society are susceptible of calculation, and at present we do not mean to shew how such computations are to be effected; that must form the theme of a future paper; all we wish to urge on the attention of those interested in the success of those benevolent institutions, is, that the existence of a large stock, or rapidly increasing fund, in the infancy of a Society, can be no evidence, in itself, of the security of the foundation on which it is built. That there is also a necessity for a very great surplus income in the first periods, in order to meet the future immense liabilities; and that the only means by which the stability of a Society can be proved, is an investigation of the contingencies of mortality and sickness; an inquiry, to which the education of most mechanics is unequal; therefore, in such a matter they ought not to depend entirely upon their own judgment, but consult some person whose qualifications enable him to give a sufficient opinion.

In order to point out the value of plan A. given in last article, in illustrating the nature

and extent of the risks of Friendly Societies; and to show how parallel it is, in almost every feature, to the actual workings of real Societies, we subjoin the quinquennial report of one, since its establishment in the year 1805. This Society presents an example of great value to all Benefit Clubs. It is established in a most salubrious district; most of its members are engaged in healthy employments, and are remarkable for sobriety, and uniform good conduct; the strictest economy is exercised in conducting its business; and the bulk of its funds is so invested in household property as to realize from 8 to 9 per cent. per annum. If any Society should be prosperous, it might be thought this one must be; but there is, unfortunately, an error in the computations, and the symptoms of decay have become so evident to the members themselves, who know nothing of the mathematical principles on which their risks depend, that two years ago, the committee was obliged to suggest the necessity of a considerable reduction in the benefits, that its decline might be averted. Indeed, in three out of the last five years, its income was unable to meet the current expenditure. Another feature of this Society, and one of much interest on a very important question, is, that its contributions and benefits are so nearly graduated to the tables of the Highland Society, as to be almost coincident with them. In this we will find a valuable practical proof, to afterwards shew that the ratio of sickness given in these tables is too favourable for one of the most healthy and temperate class of workmen in a salubrious district.

PLAN B.—"PRACTICAL SOCIETY."

Date	Number of Members.	Stock.	Total amount saved in each Period.	Share each Member had in the Stock.	Amount Saved for each Member in each Period.
		£ s.	£ s.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1805					
10	208	282 13	282 13	1 7 3	1 7 3
15	225	506 0	293 7	2 6 0	0 19 10
20	186	650 12	144 12	3 10 0	0 15 6
25	260	823 8	179 8	3 3 0	0 13 3
30	282	1123 0	209 12	4 0 4	1 1 3
35	316	1356 0	233 0	4 5 6	0 14 8
1840	384	1413 0	57 0	3 13 3	0 2 11

In plan A. the share of each member when the Society was twenty-five years established, was 4*l.* 7*s.*; but in the "Practical Society" it was 4*l.* 4*d.* Again in plan A. when 30 years established, each member's share was 4*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*; but in the "Practical" it was 4*l.* 5*s.* And lastly, in plan A. when 35 years in progress, the share was 4*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*; while in the "Practical Society," when in operation for the same time, the share of each in the Society's funds was 3*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* So that at all those periods of balancing, plan A. is more favourable to the members

and consequently to the stability of the Society, than the experience of the "Practical Society." But a very few years after the period now spoken of, it was found that the Society represented by plan A. became insolvent; and from this way of viewing the matter, it must follow that the "Practical Society" will also soon become insolvent. This will also appear from another method of inspecting plan B. Column 6th represents the amount saved, in each period of five years, for each member of the Society; and from the beginning that amount has decreased, and most remarkably so during the three last periods; so that in the next period, evidently nothing will be saved, but a considerable deficiency take place; and a like conclusion must be drawn from a proper inspection of any other column in table B. Another fact will shew how great the liabilities of the "Practical Society" are yearly becoming. In 1829, there was only one permanent member on the Society who received 7l. 16s. a year; but in 1837 there was thirteen such members, receiving 98l. 16s. per annum. The old age of Societies, like that of individuals, must be provided for in youth. In the "Practical Society" there are at present upwards of 100 members above 50 years of age, who 25 years since were all under that age; and although their contributions still remain the same as formerly, they now draw from the funds of the Society at least six times the amount of alimant that they then did. This of itself should be enough to caution the founders of Benefit Societies against holding promises which every experienced calculator declares them unable to fulfil. Workmen should have the same suspicion of too low-priced Friendly Societies, that the wealthier classes are now beginning to hold of too cheap Assurance Companies. Dr Price's advice should never be lost sight of in such matters: "they afford assistance to a few by disappointing and distressing multitudes."

In order that the "Practical Society" exhibited in plan B. might go on in its present scale of benefits, its members, besides returning to what, in the first instance, would have been a safe scale of contributions, would also need an immediate donation of 1467l. There is another provincial district, where out of a limited population there are nearly 4000 members of Friendly Societies; but upon so insecure a basis have they all been built, that it would require no less a sum than 15,000l., now that they have gone on so long on inadequate contributions, to re-establish them on a safe foundation; and that supposing that the members would now return, to what, in the first instance, would have been a proper scale of payment, overlooking past deficiencies. It is lamentable that so many benevolent and highly provident Societies

should fail from an error, so evident to every actuary and gentleman who has carefully studied the doctrines of contingencies, when applied to sickness and mortality. Hundreds fill the workhouses of the kingdom, and haunt the streets of our cities under the most severe privations of pauperism, and open to every temptation of vice and crime, who a few years ago were members of Friendly Societies, and would still have enjoyed their beneficent and fostering care, but for the neglect on the part of the founders of all just calculation of their risks. Mr. H. D. Morgan remarks, that, "It is plain that the labouring classes, (in the country, at least,) are not capable of making or appreciating the calculations which are necessary to expose the erroneous principles upon which these Societies are established, and to form the basis of a better system."

Let it still be borne in mind that the progress of these institutions, even with all their errors and ignorance of principles, has been regarded as one of the most striking manifestations of virtue that was ever made by any people. Those faults may be avoided. Science now speaks to the multitude, and Friendly Societies will become better understood and spread their blessings over the land: let every one, therefore, unite to assist his brother; for

"Two are better than one;

If they fall, the one will lift up his fellow;
But woe to him that is alone when he falleth,
For he hath not another to help him up."

N. P. G. F.

WEARING LEKS ON ST. DAVID'S DAY.

THE adoption of the Leek as the national emblem of Wales, and the custom of wearing it on the 1st of March, are traditionally referred to the following story:—On the 1st of March, in the year 640, the Saxons being about to attack the Britons, put leeks in their caps, in order, if dispersed, to be known to each other; but the Britons having gained the victory, transferred the leeks to their own caps, as signals of triumph. Mr. Brand adds, that the General commanding the Britons was vulgarly named St. David. Sir Samuel Meyrick considers the above, "like many other traditions, to have been invented for the nonce;" and we incline to his opinion; more especially as there is nothing to warrant this belief in the high antiquity of the custom. Not one of the Welsh bards, though there exists a tolerable series of their compositions from the fifth century till the time of Elizabeth, has in any manner alluded to the leek as a national emblem. Even at the present day, the custom of wearing leeks on the 1st of March is confined to the members of modern clubs. But the Harleian

Amount
Saved
for each
Member
in each
Period.

s.	d.
1	7
0	19
0	15
0	13
1	1
0	14
0	21

number when
established,
"Society"
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share was
al" it was
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47. 8s. 9d.;
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balancing,
e members

MS., No. 1977, written by a Welshman, of the time of James I., contains the following passage :—

' I like the leek above all herbs and flowers :
When *first we wore* the same, the *field* was ours.
The leek is *white* and *green*, whereby is meant,
That Britons are both stout and eminent :
Next to the lion and the unicorn,
The leek's the fairest emblem that is worn !'

" Now, the inference to be drawn from these lines is, that the leek was assumed upon, or immediately after, the battle of Bosworth-field, which was won by Henry VII., who had many Welshmen (his countrymen) in his army, and whose yeomen-guard was composed of Welshmen; and this inference is derived from the fact, that the *Tudor* colours were *white* and *green*: and, as may be seen in several heraldic MSS., formed the *field* on which the English, French, and Irish arms were placed. 'The field was ours,' alludes to the victory, of course, as well as to the heraldic field.

" This view of the case would account for the leek being only worn by Welshmen in England, and its having been a custom of comparatively modern origin in the time of Shakspeare."

Yet, this correction of a Popular Error may be, in some degree, invalidated by the leek being a native of Switzerland; and, according to the *Hortus Kewensis*, not introduced into England till about the year 1562. — *Popular Errors*, Part V.

THE LITERARY WORLD.—II.

THE LONDON LIBRARY.

As we were among the "foremost of the file" to notice the formation of this Subscription Library, in the *Literary World* Journal,† we have continued to regard the progress of the design with no common interest. There appear now to be upwards of 500 Subscribers enrolled, at 5*l.* each deposit; in November last, it was resolved that the Library should be opened, and Books issued, on the 1st of May next; when also, the first Annual Subscription of 2*l.* will be due. The entrance-money has already been

* Communicated to the Pictorial Shakspeare; Henry V., Illustrations of Act V., p. 384: "But why wear you your leek to-day? St. David's day is past."—Scene 1. Again, in Act IV., Scene 7, Fluellen says to the king, "If your majesties is remembered of it, the Welshmen did goot service in a garden where leeks did grow, wearing leeks in their Monmouth caps; which your majesty knows, to this hour, is an honourable padge of the service: and I do believe your majesty takes no scorn to wear the leek on Saint Tavy's Day."

† In reply to several kindly inquiries after the *Literary World*, we take this opportunity of explaining that Volumes, Parts, and Numbers of this Work, to complete Sets, may be had of the original Publisher; and that but for certain uncontrollable circumstances, due notice would have been given of the discontinuance of the publication.

raised to 6*l.*; and there will be a corresponding increase in the entrance-money after the numbers of 1000, 2000, and 3000 have been respectively attained. Meanwhile, the arrangements of the Committee have not been published; although, in two months, they propose to make a commencement: and, Mr. Christie, of the Inner Temple, a very efficient Member of the Committee, has published *An Explanation of the Scheme of the London Library*, in a Letter addressed to the Earl of Clarendon; in which the Author is anxious to have it understood that the plan he proposes is not "the scheme" of the Library.

This pamphlet is altogether so interesting a brochure, that we propose to glance at its contents, for the gratification of the readers of the *Mirror*; presuming them to be aware of the object of this Institution, namely, the establishment of a large Lending Library in the Metropolis. The writer first enumerates the principal lending libraries (i. e., from which books may be taken out,) which exist in almost all the capitals and large towns of continental Europe; this information having been chiefly derived from the communications received from her Majesty's Ministers abroad, in reply to a circular dispatch by Lord Palmerston, which enclosed a list of queries on the subject, supplied by Mr. Hawes, M. P. Reference is then made to the public libraries in Scotland; and to those in large towns of England; when it is clearly shewn that "in London there is no Library from which books can be taken out, worthy of the metropolis of the United Kingdom, or capable of satisfying the intellectual wants of its inhabitants." It is true that there are two Lending Libraries in London, namely, that of the Russell Institution, and Dr. Williams's Library, in Redcross-street; but neither of these contains more than "the miserable modicum of 20,000 volumes." Sixty years and more have passed since Gibbon reproached the Londoners in these emphatic words: "The greatest city in the world is destitute of that useful institution, a public library; and the writer who has undertaken to treat on any large historical subject is reduced to the necessity of purchasing for his private use a numerous and valuable collection of the books which must form the basis of his work."* This is the valuable experience of an author of very extensive reading, yet "not sufficiently extensive to give an accurate history of the world for thirteen centuries," the aim of the celebrated *Decline and Fall*.

Mr. Christie then shews the insufficiency of the vast Library of the British Museum for the intellectual demands of the metropolis:

* Gibbon's Vindication. Miscell. Works, vol. iv. p. 591. (London, 1814.) Quoted in the above *Explanation*, &c.

notwithstanding its quarter of a million of volumes, and the cost of the establishment to the country of upwards of 20,000*l.* a year, its literary wealth is only available seven hours a-day.* It is needless to remark how this inadequacy must be felt "by inhabitants of London—by families, by individuals engaged in business during the day and unable to frequent the British Museum, by authors to whom reading in a public room between fixed hours is irksome, and reading only during the day insufficient, by all who, whether for self-culture or to increase the public stock of intellectual wealth, require more books than they can afford to purchase, and must now either purchase or go without them:" now, the supply of this want is the primary object of the London Library; the accommodation of which it is proposed to extend to residents in the country, whose acquaintance with the Museum Library can now only be obtained in their occasional visits to the metropolis. The Sion College Library, although it was until the year 1836, one of those included in the benefits of the Copyright Act, 8 Anne, c. 19, is not a whit more serviceable to the public than the Library of the British Museum.

And here we must observe that the claim of these two libraries to a copy of every published work, heavily as it falls upon authors and publishers, ought to have insured the fullest benefits to this class of contributors to the commonwealth of literature. These restrictions—this hiding of the light under a bushel—this bar to the diffusion of knowledge—are, doubtless, prejudicial to the character of Books produced in the present day, when nine valuable works out of ten are compilations, or enriched with quotation. If the paramount object be to raise this character and to insure the completeness of such works, let there be no *impediments* to authors obtaining free access to the national libraries; and, in common justice, let them enjoy the fullest benefit from that store to which they commercially as well as intellectually so largely contribute. This may be regarded as *making out a case for Authors*; but, when it is considered how materially they influence the purest enjoyments of the people, by giving a tone to public

taste, any boon must be advantageously conferred upon our men of letters; the majority of whom, from the expensiveness of their pursuits, and from insatiate study to insure to their works the character of completeness, are poor even to a proverb, but are yet too highminded to seek a paltry pension. It is not too much to say that in no country of Europe is the literary character held in lighter estimation than in England; and its comparative position here and on the Continent reminds us of the emphatic experience of one who did more for the spread of knowledge than any writer of his time: "How superior is the profession of Letters in France to its condition in England—there it is for glory—here for pelf!" Again, we say, if you aim at advancing this condition, improve the management of the public libraries. 155

Arts and Sciences.

NOVEL EXPERIMENT.

In the *Times* of the 22nd inst. is detailed an extraordinary experiment with a new invention in the science of war, to which the above journal alluded last autumn. The trial took place on the 20th inst., in the grounds of Mr. Boyd, in the county of Essex, a few miles from town, in the presence of several gentlemen. A boat, twenty-three feet long, and seven broad, was placed in a large sheet of water; the boat having been the day before filled in with solid timber, four feet and a half in depth, crossed in every direction, and clamped together with eight-inch spike nails. This filling in was made under the inspection of Captain Britten, who stated that the inventor never went near the workmen employed, that no suspicion might be entertained of any combustible material being lodged in the hold of the vessel. When the different persons had taken up their positions, on a signal from the inventor, the boat was set in motion, and being struck just abaft her starboard bow, was instantaneously scattered into a thousand fragments. At the moment of collision, the water parted, and presented the appearance of a huge bowl, with a resemblance of forked lightning on its surface. A column of water was lifted to a great height in the air, from which were projected upwards, for many hundred feet, the shattered fragments of the vessel, which fell in the adjacent fields. The huge nails were found to be snapped like carrots; the mast resembled a tree riven by lightning, and the destruction appeared to have been as complete as it was sudden. How this mighty effect was produced was, of course, not disclosed to the numerous party; but two naval officers present were perfectly aware of the *modus operandi*, and the inventor offered to go into

* We scarcely agree with the Author of this pamphlet as to the validity of the objections to allowing Books to be taken out of the British Museum. Why not make it a Lending Library, under regulations sufficiently stringent to insure their return? The chance of Fire by opening the Library at night is an unreasonable fear: as well might Covent Garden Theatre be closed at night, lest it should take fire. Are not watchmen and firemen provided in our theatres, and are not most of the public buildings now erected fire-proof? Besides, how many "fires" have occurred through lighting?—the cause being, in nine cases out of ten, from heating. We suspect the closing of the Museum Library in the evening to be referable to other causes than concern for the safety of "the national collection."

details confidentially with one or two of the distinguished officers present. In reply to a question from Sir Henry Hardinge, the inventor stated that without a battering train he could transport on a mule's back the means of destroying the strongest fortress in Europe. The instrument that, on the 20th, lifted into the air a boat weighing two tons and a half, filled in with five tons and a half of solid timber, and displacing, at least, fourteen or fifteen tons of water—was only eighteen pounds weight. It was handled, and kicked round a room, when charged with its deadly contents, so portable and safe was it—a point of vast importance,

when we remember the accidents that are occurring daily from the detonating shells now used in our service. At Acre, most of the shells employed burst before they reached their object; and they are liable to explode when rolling about a ship's deck, as was proved by the fatal accidents on board *H. M. S. Medea*, off Alexandria; and the *Excellent*, at Portsmouth; there is also much danger in carrying these shells in a common ammunition-cart over a rough road. The existence of the above tremendous power is now placed beyond all doubt; and the inventor asserts that it is entirely under his control.



WALTON-ON-THAMES, FROM COWAY STAKES.

ABOUT nineteen hundred years ago, or fifty-four years before Christ, local tradition tells us that Julius Cæsar crossed the Thames at the point from which the above little view is taken. Wishing to get north of the river, this was the first fordable place the invading army could find. Nineteen centuries, after all, do something for the world. Walton Bridge, or bridges, (for there are two of them,) would nowadays save the emperor of the world the inconvenience of wetting his feet. And between this point and the mouth of the Thames, Cæsar might make choice of eleven viaducts to spare him and his army a ducking. First, London, then Southwark, (the best central spot in the metropolis for a sight of it,)

Blackfriars, Westminster, Vauxhall, Battersea, (dangerous to Cockney aquatics,) Putney, Hammersmith, Kew, Richmond, and lastly Kingston,—Bridges. The slight view above was sketched from the banks of the grounds of Lord Tankerville's villa, a graceful Italian edifice, with an elegant campanile, which serves as a beacon for several miles on the Thames; recently built by Mr. Barry, and probably facing the very spot where the Romans crossed the river. The wooden bridge in the foreground is used by the towing horses; and there are few things more pleasant than to lie on the banks of my lord's garden, in the shade of the willows, on a summer's day, and watch the sagacity of the horses following the twists of the path, tugging for their very lives against the stream. C.

New Books.

Mountains and Lakes of Switzerland. By Mrs. Bray.

[THREE volumes of lively letters, descriptive of a tour in Switzerland and other parts of the Continent, by the accomplished author of *Trials of the Heart*, promised a rich fund of light, pleasant, jaunty, miscellaneous reading; and to a certain extent, we have not been disappointed. Still, the route is so beaten a track, that we find little novelty in the incidents of the journey; and it could be

wished that in place of constant references to Mr. Murray's Guide-book, Mrs. Bray had given us her own experiences. The epistolary form of the work too, we are persuaded, will not add to its popularity; although we have much gratification in adding that the letters are models of that class of composition. They contain all kinds of information very pleasantly narrated, and especially an abundance of clever criticism of well-known objects in the route, which is a very useful as well as agreeable characteristic of the volumes before us. For, tourists are too apt to start with prejudices or prepossessions

respecting certain matters. They make up their minds to depreciate some, and magnify others; and between these errors of judgment, they pick up but little in their travels that is worth bringing home. According to the old fable, that familiarity breeds contempt, we incline to think that continued intercourse with the Continent has tended to reduce a host of its wonders to mere common-places, and to teach Englishmen that they are constantly leaving "curiosities," natural and artificial, in their own country, to seek foreign objects far less worthy of their admiration. The Guide-book, we fear, is "the voice of the charmer" that gives our countrymen this locomotive propensity, of which nothing but experience of the inconveniences of travel will cure them, by teaching them to stay at home, or rather make themselves acquainted with the rarities of their own land before they fly off to other countries. But, we suspect they too much resemble the French encyclopædists, who actually overlooked their own metropolis.

It must not, however, be supposed that we wish to consider Mrs. Bray of this class of tourists; for too well do we remember her first work—*Letters from Normandy and Brittany*—full of clever, artistical criticism, graphic spirit, judicious estimation of antiquities, and agreeable impressions,—to expect otherwise than entertainment from her graceful hand. And these have been the characteristics of this delightful authoress from first to last—for, what reader does not remember the entertainment we culled for him from Mrs. Bray's recent work—*The Borders of the Tamar and the Tavy*?

Our present space will allow us but to make a few flying extracts from the *Switzerland*, such as will justify our encomiums. Here, *imprimis*, is a sketch of

Beautiful Country.]

I told you but now that I could not describe scenery. It would be vain, therefore, did I dwell on that presented to us by this evening's drive. I rather mention the little I have noted down for my own sake, than for yours. To me such notes are hints to memory, to unfold and look upon the page in the mind's eye, in which I see scene after scene arise with all its particularity of detail. To you these accounts are but words; for what will you be the better when I say that the mountains of the Black Forest, with the intersections of their bold, abrupt, and beautiful forms and outlines, now seen of the deepest purple, or of a glowing gold, as they were, more or less, under the influence or the absence of the rays of the setting sun, formed pictures such as no art could portray with the full power and harmony of their effects.

The quiet, the repose of the evening was perfect. The villages already seemed

to be sunk into their rest: there was no stir among them. The solitary toll of a bell from some church, whose spire pointed towards the heaven to which the house of prayer is the way, was often the only sound that met our ear. The valleys opened upon us; at almost every turn of the road we came upon new combinations of scenery, new outlets among the mountains. Yet we were on a road perfectly level, and these heights formed our side screen, and a beautiful one indeed. I was charmed by observing the effects of the clouds that floated around them, or rested on their summits, as the day drew nearer and nearer towards its close. Sometimes these veils of vapour dropped upon and wholly concealed them from our sight; then they shifted, rose gradually, or passed on, alternately discovering or concealing the sides and summits of the mountains, or now partially disclosing some beautiful valley, enriched with woods, that appeared of the deepest purple against a sky of liquid gold. Here and there might be seen some bright spot of verdure, that might not inaptly be compared to an emerald set in the diadem of the mountain's brow. Indeed, never, till I travelled in these elevated regions, more especially in Switzerland, did I see effects in nature equal in lustre and in the depth and richness of their colouring to the jewels and precious stones of the earth.

But, not to jewels alone might the glories produced by such a sunset as this be compared. The clouds shifted so continually, that there was no end to the fanciful effects they produced in combination with the deepening colours and the glittering rays of the last beams of the sun. Sometimes the vapour was so light, that it served only to produce that optic illusion of magnifying objects without wholly obscuring them: when seen through such a medium, the rocks of the Black Forest every here and there reared a phantom-like form, so that I could well conceive whence arose those wild legends and the blood-curdling horrors of the demon huntsman, and his train of spirits and evil things.

[Next is an amusing anecdote of the

Popularity of Queen Victoria.]

I cannot hope that a person so humble as myself will ever have the honour of approaching royalty, so that I shall have no means of informing her Majesty Queen Victoria in what high estimation she is held in the grand duchy of Baden, as we found by the very great admiration a shilling, possessing her remarkably fine profile for a coin, excited at the Zähringer Hotel; and we afterwards found the same feeling existed in other parts of the Continent: indeed, a commissionaire, whom I some time after detected in an attempt to cheat us in

more ways than one at Cologne, thought most fully to disarm suspicion by giving me the assurance that Queen Victoria was his favourite, the sovereign prince he loved most in all the world. My nephew chanced to possess and to pull out, when about to pay the bill, a new-coined fresh and plump shilling from our mint, bearing upon it the impression of our young and lovely queen. On glancing his eye upon it, our Fribourg poet instantly exclaimed, "I will give money for that!" My nephew bestowed it upon him as a gift; but it was not destined to rest in his hands, for the master of the Zähringer, having also seen it, expressed so great a wish to be the possessor of it, that the poet gave it up to him, and Queen Victoria's "sweet favour" was passed from hand to hand, and admired by all the house.

Travelling Englishmen.

Some of the English, even at the fine hotel at Lucerne, were very sorry personages—poor examples of our country; and these, I remarked, gave themselves so many airs, that I suspected some of them to be of no higher grades than wealthy tailors and mantuamakers when at home—though of tailors let me speak reverently, for I have hitherto forgot to mention that in Baden we saw an elegant Gothic monument in cast-iron work, erected, in the open air, to the memory of Stultz, in the village where he was born. This celebrated person, who died *Baron Stultz*, deserved both his monument and his rank; not, however, for his skill in enabling old beaux to rival young ones by the grace and the inimitable cut of his coats, but for having devoted the greatest part of his riches during his lifetime to a truly noble and munificent purpose—that of founding and endowing an hospital in Germany for the old and the sick. All honour be paid to the memory of such a man.

[We suspect that a vast quantity of inflated nonsense has been written about the blessings of Switzerland, and that the Swiss have been set down as a much happier people than they really are; and Mrs. Bray is of this opinion: thus of—

Swiss Enjoyment.]

Switzerland is the most delightful country in the world for the tourist, the artist, and the poet. But the beauty which characterizes it is of little value to the people, who would gladly exchange some of those picturesque rocks and barren mountains, which we so much admire, for a richer soil, a like portion of earth, more capable of growing corn and other aliments of human sustenance and support. But, in some measure to obviate the evils to which they are exposed by causes of a physical nature, a good Providence has given them a spirit patient of toil, and necessity has added to

it habits of frugality; so that the Swiss never spare labour and industry, and are content with the simplest and the hardest fare. Yet a people subject to such a fearful disease as that of goitre can hardly be said to thrive under it. Their cities being numerous and populous, and their ground capable but of small cultivation in proportion to the number of the inhabitants of the country at large, the Swiss are obliged to emigrate in vast bodies, and to seek their bread in other and more wealthy lands; and as they are naturally a brave and warlike race of men, the most honourable career open to them is that of arms. To seek such service was their practice for ages; and hence is it, that in the wars of Spain, Italy, France, and the Low Countries, we so constantly read of bands of Swiss soldiers being engaged in them as *mercenaries*.

[A vignette of poetic and historical interest follows:—]

We passed in our way the ruins of a feudal castle, said to be the scene of Byron's "Manfred." It is beautifully situated on an eminence below the mountains, and surrounded by woods. A tale of tradition attaches itself to this castle. It is highly romantic, quite in character with the scene. The castle is called *Unspunnen*, and was in former ages the residence of the lords of the *Oberland*. A certain Count Burkard, one of its masters, had a beautiful daughter, named Ina. She, like a second Juliet, fell in love with the dependent of her father's ancient enemy, Count Berchtold of Zähringen. Love laughs at the quarrels of princes, as much as he does at any other lets or hindrances, when he is determined to conquer. In the present instance (and it is not the only one of which I have heard), he shewed that he knew very well how to get over a wall; for love prompted the youthful lover, whose name was not Romeo, but Rudolph, to scale the castle walls by night, and bear off Ina, whom he soon after made his wife.

Many years of cruel strife followed this aggression; till at length Rudolph, taking his little son, the fruit of his marriage with Ina, in his hand, presented himself, unarmed and unattended, before the castle gates of his incensed father-in-law. Burkard was so much touched at the sight, that he relented, instantly pardoned him, and made the infant son heir to his castle and possessions. And that a perpetual rejoicing might mark the day of this happy reconciliation, to the latest times, he instituted rural games, which for ages after were, once a year, held on the spot. These games were revived (at the commencement of the present century), for athletic exercises, and speedily became frequented by the natives, far and near, of the different cantons.

Manners and Customs of the Japanese.

[The populous empire of Japan, it appears, remains as much a *terra incognita* now, as it was a hundred years ago. For two centuries, since the simultaneous expulsion of Christianity and the Portuguese, A.D. 1640, has this country been hermetically closed against foreigners of all climes, against Asiatics as against Europeans; with the exception of one Chinese and one Dutch factory, both established, and, indeed, imprisoned in one seaport-town. In short, we know less of Japan than of China; and we have as much to do with the Japanese as our tea-trays or Day and Martin's Japan Blacking! In the work before us, we learn that "the population of Japan is variously estimated by different writers, at from 15,000,000 to 40,000,000, or even 45,000,000 souls;" "or so," as the good people of Little Pedlington say. Then, in the *Penny Cyclopædia*, valuable for its geographical articles, we learn that the empire "consists of an unknown number of islands of different dimensions." Really, this ignorance of Japan *Proper* is very *improper*; and we are a very ungrateful people: we are kept from contagion, and revived from fever, by Japanese camphor; our ladies treasure Japanese china; we get from Japan the best soy, (the best sauce,) for our fish; and we admire the Japanese lacquered woodwork, unless eclipsed in the pride of our *papier-mâché* made by steam:—yet, we care not a jot about the domestic history of the imperious people whence we derive these luxuries and adjuncts to enjoyment. All this is very reprehensible, at first blush: but, we can scarcely help ourselves; for the Dutch traders are rarely allowed to visit the Japanese capital. It is true that now and then, "a physician, visiting the Dutch factory as its allowed medical attendant, has gleaned such scanty facts as his Japanese acquaintance ventured to impart, in violation of their solemn oaths to reveal nothing; and the relations published by these medical inquirers upon their return home, were necessarily such as stimulated rather than appeased the appetite of those Europeans who desired to be made acquainted with a country so remarkable for the originality of its political institutions, the peculiar and lofty character of its people, and a form of civilization neither European nor Asiatic, and apparently altogether indigenous."

Of late, however, Russia, America, and England have attempted to open a trade with Japan; but in vain. Still, the schoolmaster having been abroad in Holland, as elsewhere, some of "the traffic-trained members of the Dutch counting-house at Dezina," (two chiefs and a warehouse-keeper,) have published three several works upon Japan; besides which, several Japanese books have

been brought home in translation or original; and Dr. von Siebold, a learned German, physician to the factory, has collected much valuable information on the empire. From these several contemporary sources, together with reference to older writers, little known in England, the present volume has been derived. It does not appear to be so well put together as could be wished; but the details are as interesting as they are miscellaneous; and our extracts must be chequered accordingly. First, we gather from a narrative by Dr. von Siebold, the following particulars of some shipwrecked

Japanese Sailors.]

They were quickly reconciled to their lot, seemed to relish their *sake* and tobacco, and chatted away with great animation. They spread their mats on deck, each fetched his box, and a scene, novel to us, began—namely, a Japanese toilet. Above all, we admired their dexterity in shaving their own heads. The Japanese shaves his beard and the crown of his head, omitting so to do only in misfortune—as captivity, death of friends, and the like. In the appropriate *coiffure* of the Japanese, the newly-washed bristly hair left round the shaven crown gives him a wild aspect, which had here passed into the comic, every individual having cut off his *queue* as a sacrifice to his patron divinity, in acknowledgment of his deliverance from imminent danger—a Japanese seaman's vow.

[Next is described the first

Appearance of the Country.]

Hills clothed with fresh green, and cultivated to the very summit, adorn the foreground, behind which arise blue mountain peaks in sharp outlines. Dark rocks here and there break the glassy surface of the sea, and the precipitous wall of the adjacent coast glittered with ever-changing hues in the bright beams of the morning sun. The mountain side of the nearest island, cultivated in terraces; tall cedars, amongst which white houses shone, and insulated temple-roofs juttred magnificently out, with numerous dwellings and huts bordering the strand and the shores of the bay, afforded a really attractive sight. We neglected not the opportunity of obtaining explanations from our Japanese guests, and learned with surprise that the pretty white houses, which we had taken for the mansions of the grantees, were nothing more than store-houses, the walls of which are coated, as a precaution against fire, with mortar prepared from shell-chalk.

The bay becomes more animated as we approach the town, and offers on both sides the most delightful variety of objects. How inviting are the shores, with their cheerful dwellings! What fruitful hills, what majestic temple-groves! How picturesque

those green mountain-tops, with their volcanic formation! How luxuriantly do those evergreen oaks, cedars, and laurels clothe the declivity! What activity, what industry does nature, thus tamed, as it were, by the hand of man, proclaim! As witness those precipitous walls of rock, at whose feet corn-field and cabbage-gardens are won in terraces from the steep; witness the coast, where cyclopean bulwarks set bounds to the arbitrary caprice of a hostile element!*

[*Smuggling.*]

Formerly, every captain of the annual ships was wont, whilst the bibles &c. were in process of packing, to clothe himself in loose attire, which was made to fit him, in external appearance, by internal waddings. Thus enlarged, he presented himself to the visiting Japanese officers. When about to land, he exchanged his waddings for the contraband articles intended to be introduced, wore his waddings during his stay, and repeated the former operation prior to re-embarking for departure. This practice has now been rendered impossible.

[*Dress—Swords—Shoes—Hair—Fans.*]

The constant criterion turns upon the wearing of swords. The higher orders wear two swords—on the same side, it should seem, and one above the other. The next in rank wear one; and, whether two or one, these are never, by any chance, laid aside. To the lower orders, a sword is strictly prohibited. Within doors, socks are the only covering of the feet. Abroad, shoes are worn, but of the most inconceivably inconvenient kind. They are represented as little more than soles, of straw, matting, or wood, mainly kept on by an upright pin, or button, held between the two principal toes, which, for this purpose, project through an appropriate aperture in the socks, or, according to some older writers, by a horn ring. The impossibility of lifting a foot thus shod in walking may amply account for the awkward gait ascribed to the Japanese. Upon entering any house, these shoes are taken off.

The head-dress constitutes the chief difference, in point of costume, between the sexes. The men shave the whole front and crown of the head; the rest of the hair, growing from the temples and back of the head, is carefully gathered together, drawn upwards and forwards, and so tied as to form a sort of tuft on the bald skull. Some professions, however, deviate from this general fashion; Buddhist priests and physicians shaving off all the hair, while surgeons retain all theirs, gathered into a knot at the top of the head.

The abundant hair of the women is arranged into the form of a turban, and stuck

full of pieces of fine tortoiseshell, fifteen inches long, of the thickness of a man's finger, highly wrought, and polished to look like gold. They are said to be extremely costly; and the more of them project from a lady's hair, the better she is dressed. They wear no jewellery or other trinkets. The face is painted red and white, to the utter destruction of the complexion; the lips purple, with a golden glow; in addition to this, the teeth of a Japanese married lady are blackened, and her eyebrows extirpated.

Neither men nor women wear hats, except as a protection against rain: the fan is deemed a sufficient guard from the sun; and, perhaps, nothing will more strike the newly-arrived European than this fan, which he will behold in the hand or the girdle of every human being. Soldiers and priests are no more to be seen without their fans than fine ladies, who make of theirs the use to which fans are put in other countries. Amongst the men of Japan, it serves a great variety of purposes; visitors receive the dainties offered them upon their fans; the beggar, imploring charity, holds out his fan for the alms his prayers may have obtained. The fan serves the dandy in lieu of their whalebone switch; the pedagogue, instead of a ferule for the offending schoolboy's knuckles; and, not to dwell too long upon the subject, a fan, presented upon a peculiar kind of salver to the high-born criminal, is said to be the form of announcing his death-doom: his head is struck off at the same moment as he stretches it towards the fan.

[We now pass to the middle of the volume for the annexed details of an impudent hoax, which was played off in England some eighteen years since; and which was figured, but suspected, in the second Number of *The Mirror*: we allude to the

Mermaid of 1822-3.]

A Japanese fisherman seems to have displayed ingenuity for the mere purpose of making money by his countrymen's passion for everything odd and strange. He contrived to unite the upper half of a monkey to the lower half of a fish, so neatly, as to defy ordinary inspection. He then gave out that he had caught the creature alive in his net, but that it had died shortly after being taken out of the water; and he derived considerable pecuniary profit from his cunning in more ways than one. The exhibition of the sea-monster to Japanese curiosity paid well; but yet more productive was the assertion that the half human fish, having spoken during the few minutes it existed out of its native element, had predicted a certain number of years of wonderful fertility, and a fatal epidemic, the only remedy for which would be possession of the marine prophet's likeness. The sale of these pic-

* Siebold.

tured mermaids was immense. Either the composite animal, or another, the offspring of the success of the first, was sold to the Dutch factory, and transmitted to Batavia, where it fell into the hands of a speculating American, who brought it to Europe, and here, in the years 1822-3, exhibited his purchase, as a real mermaid, at every capital, to the admiration of the ignorant, the perplexity of the learned, and the filling of his own purse.

[The following is an interesting fact illustrating the longevity of trees:—

A Camphor-Tree.]

A camphor-tree, mentioned by Kæmpfer, A.D. 1691, as already celebrated for its size, hollow from age, and supposed to measure six fathoms in circumference, though from its standing on a hill it was not then actually measured, was visited by Siebold in 1826. He found it still healthy, and rich in foliage, though 135 years older. He and his pupils measured it, and he gives 16·884 metres (about fifty feet) as its circumference, adding, in confirmation of this enormous size, that fifteen men can stand in its inside.

[Subjoined are some curious details of the

Japanese Theatre.]

The most original point relative to the Japanese stage is, the mode, or rather the order, of performance. Three pieces are frequently represented the same day; not, as with us, successively, in wholes, but in portions or fragments—viz., first, the first act of one, then the first act of a second, then the first act of a third; then, returning to the first play, the second act of the first play, and, successively, the second acts of the second and third plays, and so on, till all three are completed. Thus any of the audience who wish only to see one of these pieces, or who dislike the confinement of sitting out the whole—it need hardly be said that the three tragi-comedies occupy great part of a day, from early in the afternoon to late in the evening—may withdraw to smoke, drink *sake*, or attend to business, whilst the pieces they care not to see take their turn of representation, coming back refreshed to witness the next act of the favourite drama. The Japanese ladies, however, so far from objecting to the length of time to be spent in the theatre, appear to consider it as a peculiarly happy opportunity for displaying the stores of their respective wardrobes. They are attended to the theatre by their female servants, with an ample supply of dresses, and repeatedly change their attire in the course of the afternoon and evening. The theatre is said to be a very favourite amusement of the Japanese, but it is also very costly; and, in that country, few persons, at least of the higher classes, can afford to indulge in unnecessary expenses.

[Fire-proof Houses.]

The most remarkable part of a Japanese dwelling is the provision against fire. To each belongs a detached store-room, or warehouse, such as those which Siebold mistook at a distance for the mansions of nobility. In these, tradesmen keep their stock of goods, and private families their most valuable effects, as pictures, books, collections of rarities, &c.; These store-rooms are built of the same materials as the houses; but the whole woodwork, doors and roof included, is covered with a foot-thick coating of clay; the apertures for windows are closed with copper shutters; and, for further security, a large vessel of liquid mud is always at hand, with which to smear over every part of the building in case of danger; that is to say, in case one of the conflagrations for ever occurring amidst such combustible houses should break out in the neighbourhood, or the wind drive the sparks and flames of a distant fire in a menacing direction. These fire-proof store-rooms answer their purpose so well, that President Doeff, in describing a conflagration, which spread into such fearful vicinity to the bridge between Nagasaki and Dezima, that the governor allowed the scared inhabitants of the factory general egress by the water-gate, and which consumed eleven whole streets of Nagasaki, partially destroying others, explicitly states that not one of the store-rooms was injured. Neither did Dezima suffer; the flames having, at length, been extinguished, before they crossed the bridge.

[Religious Festivals.]

In every month there are two, somewhat analogous to our Sunday: the grandest annual festival is New Year's-day, preceded by the imperative payment of every debt on New Year's-eve; and the prettiest is one in which lighted lanterns are launched at night upon the bay, to ascertain, by their fate, the destiny of the souls of deceased relatives and friends; the queerest, one in which men, holding high official situations, and of advanced years, busy themselves in flying kites, the strings being thickly covered with broken glass, and great interest attached to the cutting the string of a rival's kite; and the most absurd, one in which the foul fiend is simultaneously expelled from every house, by dint of pelting him with boiled peas, according to Meylan; with stones, according to Fischer.

The Year-Book of Facts in Science and Art.—1841. By the Editor of the *Archana of Science.*

This volume contains no fewer than 500 Abstracts of Inventions and Improvements, Discoveries and New Facts—the labours of

the past year. Each page is as full as an egg of closely-packed materials, abridged, concentrated, or re-written, with the authority appended, so that the reader is not asked to rely on the Editor's *ipse dixit*: the sources, too, are so acknowledged, that they may readily be referred to in cases where the details are too numerous for entire quotation. The execution of the work we are content to leave to other critics, not one of whom, we predict, will be insensible to the time and labour requisite for its production: indeed, it is the most laborious volume of its series, but renewed health had fortified us for the task.

If requested to name the more striking contents of this Year-book, as denoting the active scientific spirit of 1841, we should refer to the numerous improvements in Steam Navigation, and in Civil Engineering, generally: the number of iron steamers built has been very great. Next is recorded the progress of terrestrial Magnetism; the first rate interest of the Electrical Researches, with the pictorial attractiveness of the Electrotype process; the number and variety of the New Facts in Chemical Science, not omitting the Experiments of the Year, on "Poisoning by Arsenic," or the advances to perfection made with the Daguerreotype; the novelties in Zoology and Botany; the Progress of Geology, rife with encouragement for the lover of science; the Astronomical and Meteorological Phenomena of a year unusually changeful; and the consummation of the North-west Passage; all which subjects occupy prominent positions in this volume. The principal illustrations are a view of the interior of the Polytechnic Institution, and a vignette of the Decomposition of Water, by a voltaic circle, under the Oxyhydrogen Microscope. The Index is as copious, as heretofore.

Poems and Songs. By John Imlah.

[A VOLUME of 115 lyrical pieces, all written with much vigour, and true poetic feeling, and some of them almost reaching the merit of the author's own countryman—Burns; whilst nearly every page breathes that fervent love of country—that delightful enthusiasm, which is so truly characteristic of Scottish songs; as in our poet's opening]

My Ain Countrie.

Land o' the North! my ain countrie,
My lay will be oft o' thine and thee,
And wake I ween but little skill:
Would it were worthier o' the will,
For what richer story—richer strand
For the poet's harp or the painter's hand,
Than thine in the clasp o' the circling sea
Land o' the North, my ain countrie!

[There is genuine humour in the following lines to a successor of Neil Gow, of high fame throughout Aberdeenshire, as a performer of reels and strathspeys]—

Drumnagarrow.

Strachan! thou *ultimus Romanorum*,
That scrap'st in Scotia's quire and quorum,
Lang may ye push about the Jorum
Wi' choicest chiefs,
And drive them wud wi' "Tullochgorum,"
The reel o' reels!
Be life wi' thee a cloudless simmer,
Welcome to cronic and to kimmer;
Lang mayst thou mak' the tremlin' timmer
Thy music feel,
While sturdy loun and strappin' limmer
Loup, skip, and squeel!
In fame and favour mayst thou grow,
Shunning the *broadway* leading low,
Mid a' the fiddles in a row
That top the narrow,
Flourish, like Aaron's rod, the bow
O' Drumnagarrow!
Gude prosper a' that may concern
Thy hame an' haddin', board and bairn,
Be evergreen the bays ye earn,
Till full o' days
And lowly laid, a noble cairn
May Scotia raise.
On ilka Scot be dool and shame,
Upon his head, upon his hame,
And a' the plagues that ever came,
O' old, on Pharaoh,
Wha scorns thy numbers and thy name,
O! Drumnagarrow!

[Here are two charming ballads—amatory and convivial:]

Auld Lowrie's Bonnie Mary.

O! there were wooers nine or ten,
Some down the burn—some up the glen,
Cam' courting daily, but an' ben,
Auld Lowrie's bonnie Mary.
Her fame—her name spread far an' near,
She kept the countrie in a steer,
An' monie cam' her price to spier,
Auld Lowrie's bonnie Mary.
The wealthy vowed to keep her grand,
As onie lady in the land,
Wad she but plight them heart an' hand,
Auld Lowrie's bonnie Mary.
An' ithers deaved her wi' their din,
O! gentle bluid an' muckle kin,
But little reck'd they how to win
Auld Lowrie's bonnie Mary.
At last our Jock gae'd oure the gate,
An' nae our bauld, an' nae our blate,
An' woo'd wi' love baith ear' an' late,
Auld Lowrie's bonnie Mary.
An' wha could Jock an' love withstan'?
Sae he, wi' holy beuk an' bann,
Made her gudewife—whare's he's gudeman,
Auld Lowrie's bonnie Mary!

We've drunk to them that's here about.

We've drunk to them that's here about,
We've drunk to them that's far awa;
But all again, there's aye, nae doubt,
We yet could drink abune them a',
Wha drinks—and deep—fair be his fa',
On him that winna, meikle shame,
As round and round the cup we ca'
A health to her—we need na name!
I gie you joy, wha hae found grace,
Wi' aye that's comely, kind, and true!
I feel for you—I ken the case—
Whom some fair thief o' hearts gars rue,
Though nocht you say, and swear, and do,
Can wauk in her's the tender flame,
Yet we're forgiving when we're fou—
Here's health to her—whate'er her name

O! wearie fa' the womankind,
 They've been, sin' first the world began,
 O' winning men—and wayward mind,
 The blessing or the bane o' man;
 Yet after a', do what we can,
 The bonnie dears we canna blame;
 Sae a benison gae wi' our ban,
 And the wish that some would bear our name!

Auld Adam led a wearie life
 Till Eve, in Eden's bonnie bowers,
 Was made the first o' men's gudewife—
 The fairest o' the garden's flowers;
 Though dearly bought, the social hours,
 Wi' dool and death—wi' sin and shame—
 We think them cheap, when pass we ours
 Wi' her we'll drink—but daurna name.

The waukrife cock fu' loudly craws,
 The merry morn begins to blink,
 And troth, it's time to wear our wa's
 When folk begin to lisp and wink;
 Whate'er we thole, whate'er we think,
 In this we'll do and say the same,
 We'll brim the bowl, and deep we'll drink
 A health to her—that each could name!

[Several of the pieces in the volume have been set to music, and have become, as they deserved, exceedingly popular.]

Obituary.

SIR ASTLEY P. COOPER, BART.

WE select the following traits and anecdotes from that highly accredited publication, the *Medical Gazette*.

It has often been remarked that some circumstance, apparently accidental, has tended to influence the future career of those concerned; and an anecdote is told of Sir Astley which, if true, seems to bear out this idea. It is said that when a boy he saw a lad fall from a cart, and tear his thigh in such a manner as to wound the femoral artery; our young hero immediately took his handkerchief, applied it round the thigh, and twisted it so tightly as to control the bleeding till further assistance could be procured.

Sir Astley received some very large fees, among which not the least remarkable was that of a thousand guineas thrown at him in his night-cap by a patient whom he had cut for the stone—an anecdote which we heard the deceased tell with no small animation, on retiring from a patient upon whom he had just performed the same operation, and who had likewise in his agony flung his cap at the surgeon, but without its containing on this occasion the cheque which gave so much force to the original incident.

In 1815, when at the height of his reputation, he removed to Spring Gardens; and he was one of the few with whom the migration from the city to the west end has proved fully successful. A few years afterwards he was employed professionally by George IV. to remove a small tumor from the scalp—an operation which he performed with all his wonted coolness and dexterity.*

Till 1827 Sir Astley continued to enjoy an extensive practice, and to make a very large income. He then, in the full zenith of his fame, voluntarily retired into the country to enjoy the riches he had accumulated, and spend the remainder of his days in the dignified repose of a country gentleman. But Sir Astley was not made for the

* There is no truth whatever in the story which appeared in the newspapers some days ago, in which it is stated that Sir Astley lost his presence of mind on this occasion, and was recalled to himself by an admonition from Lord Liverpool: his lordship was not even present.—*Ed. Gaz.*

otium cum dignitate, and a very short time saw him back again in the metropolis, where, on more than one occasion, he publicly referred to the period of his seclusion, and declared that if he had remained idle he should certainly have hanged himself. His nephew, Mr. Bransby Cooper, having been installed in his old residence in New-street, Spring Gardens, Sir Astley took a house in Conduit-street, where he gave a series of *conversazioni*, which were attended by nearly all the medical world in London, and which were intended apparently to convince his brethren of the reality of his return. He brought with him his great name and unblemished reputation, but never had, and probably never desired to have, the same immense business as before his temporary retirement; others, of scarcely inferior note, had gained possession of, and retained, a considerable portion of what had before been almost exclusively his own.

As an operator we need scarcely say that he was bold, rapid, and skilful, almost without parallel—qualities which tended greatly to enhance his own reputation, and to heighten the character of English surgery. We well remember having been present at a *conversazione* at M. Maunoir's, in 1817, attended by most of the scientific men in Geneva, when the fact was communicated of Sir Astley having cut down upon and tied the aorta in the living subject; nor shall we readily forget the expressions of admiration, not quite unmingled with consternation, with which the announcement was received.

Probably, no surgeon of ancient or modern times has enjoyed a greater share of reputation during his life than has fallen to the lot of Sir Astley. The old and new world has alike rung with his fame; and, perhaps, we cannot give a better example of this than one to which we remember having alluded on a former occasion—we mean, the fact of his signature being received as a passport among the mountains of Biscay, by the wild followers of Don Carlos. A young English surgeon, seeking for employment, was carried as a prisoner before Zumalacarrregui, who demanded what testimonials he had of his calling or his qualifications? Our countryman presented his diploma of the College of Surgeons; and the name of Astley Paston Cooper, which was attached to it, no sooner struck the eye of the Carlist leader, than he at once received his prisoner with friendship, and appointed him a surgeon in his army.

Sir Astley Cooper was a handsome man, and of striking appearance, well deserving the "*c'est un bel homme!*" which was often bestowed upon him as he walked round the Hôtel-Dieu with M. Dupuytren. His manner was open, free, and encouraging to his patients; altogether void of affectation, as well as of all excessive or artificial polish.

Sir Astley, as we have seen, long enjoyed a large share of public patronage; but we believe the actual amount of his fortune, when stated at half a million, is considerably over-rated. His personal expenses were not great; but he was very liberal to his relations, on whom, we have heard, on what we believe to be good authority, that he bestowed between two and three thousand pounds annually. He is also said to have spent 20,000*l.* in bringing his brother into Parliament.* Nor was his liberality confined to his own family:—when Dr. Baillie and some others made up a purse for Dr. Penberton, in the difficulties brought upon him by his ill-health, Sir Astley contributed the munificent sum of 500*l.*

The leisure of his advanced age was not spent in idleness, but was devoted to scientific pursuits;—dissecting, making preparations, and other most industrious investigations of disease.

* It is amusing to see Sir Astley's success attributed, in a memoir recently published, to his brother being in Parliament—just the converse being the fact—viz., that his previous success enabled him to make his brother an M.P.

The Gatherrr.

M. Guizot.—A deputation of American citizens have waited upon M. Guizot, "the historian of Washington," to solicit him to sit to an eminent artist for his portrait, in order that the United States may possess the likeness of him who has treated the life of the great American citizen with so much talent and effect.

Odd Comparison.—Mrs. Bray describes some of the foaming rivers of Switzerland as like nothing but *dirty soap-suds*, as if it had been washing-day with the mountains!

Women of Cadiz.—*Les femmes, voilà la beauté de Cadiz.* Nothing on earth is comparable to their figures, their soft glances, their large, warm, velvety eyes. And then, their feet; their delicious, darning little feet, shod in the prettiest satin shoes in the world! And withal, so soft and tender, (that is to say, when not jealous), so affable and so *spirituelle*. The *paré* of the place is delightful. It seems expressly made for the pretty feet, silk-stockinged, and satin-shod, which tread upon it, "from night to morn, from morn to dewy eve."—*Budget of a Blue Jacket; Times.*

The Fandango.—It is alone at Cadiz, that the fandango is properly danced. Everywhere else it is paltzy, pitiful, shall I say, disgusting? At Cadiz alone, it is divine; the applause was almost frenzied. Soon, however, you could hear a pin drop. Every eye was fixed, every tongue was silent, every breath suppressed. Plunged in silent ecstasy, we all followed those alternately graceful, and magically rapid, *poses of the danatrice.*—*Ibid.*

Cadiz.—The bay is a thing *unique*. The mouth, narrow at the entrance, is defended by the forts of Matagorda, so admirably placed, that the two points on which they are built seem to have jutted out from the sea designedly to receive them. In the distance, is seen the city itself, Cadiz, the beautiful Cadiz, with those white and beautiful-looking houses, as though they were built of alabaster. These very houses were the cradle and the rampart of Spanish independence.—*Ibid.*

Windsor Castle.—There is no halt in the literary run upon our Public Buildings; Mr. Ainsworth announces *Windsor Castle*, an historical romance, as a companion to the *Tower of London*.

Slavery in America.—The maintenance of this vile traffic has long been the foulest blot upon the American character; and, judging from the replies to questions transmitted to our Anti-slavery Society by the American Anti-slavery Society, the atrocities of the system are unabated; and mark, the evidence is American. In commenting upon the cruelties of the system, "fostered and firmly adhered to by the legislators of the great American nation!" the *Times* asks, with burning indignation: "Was there ever a more deplorable illustration of human weakness, inconsistency, and wickedness? A free people, people glorying in their freedom, and boasting of the rights of man, and yet keeping nearly three millions of their fellow-creatures in the most cruel bondage! A religious people, a people who send their missionaries to India, Tartary, and the farthest east; and who yet cherish among them a system which destroys their whole negro population, soul and body! A people, boasting of their literature and their taste, with whom the planter lays down a volume of the lofty romance of Scott, or the touching drama of Shakespeare, and takes up his gun, to ramble into the bush, and shoot a woman! A people, who tell us that they maintain more preachers of the gospel by voluntary efforts, than either England or Scotland by their church establishments, and whose preachers of the gospel 'flog a woman with their own hands before they go to chapel, and have her tied up to a post that they may flog her again when they return home.'"—(See the *Replies*, p. 139.)

The Tuileries.—There never was any palace so well lighted as the Tuileries at present. There are, at least, three to one more candles burnt now than at any former period.—*New Mon. Mag.*

Titled Persons.—Those who enjoy titles by courtesy are estimated at between 3000 and 4000 persons, whilst those whose titles are of right exceed 2000. The English, Irish, and Scottish peers are 557 in number, the baronets 905, the archbishops and bishops 53, the lords of session 11, the peeresses in their own right 13, dowagers belonging to extinct peerages 11, knights of the various civil and military orders 180; and the last class, the knights bachelors, comprising lawyers, physicians, naval and military knights, men of science, diplomatic and official persons, &c., amount to about 450.—*Dodd's New Peerage, &c.*

Receding of the Sea.—The *Phare de Rochelle* states, that the sea is receding so rapidly from the Bay of Bourgneuf, that the remains of an English ship-of-war, mounting sixty-four guns, which was lost on an oyster-bank, called *Les Retraits des Euvres*, whilst in pursuit of a French ship, in 1752, is now to be found in the midst of a cultivated plain. On comparing the depth of the water where this vessel struck with its present level, it will be found that the depth of the sea has diminished at least fifteen feet.

South Australia.—Within four or five years from its commencement, the population of this young Colony rose to from 14,000 or 15,000 persons, some of them wealthy. Adelaide was growing to a large and flourishing city, towns also springing up at Fort Lincoln, and in other places, and agriculture commencing—large increasing numbers of cattle and flocks of sheep—a thriving whale fishery—our shipping interest greatly benefited—the overflowing needy part of our population finding a home, and immediate employment, with very high wages—such was the prosperity of South Australia, until a sudden stoppage took place, owing to financial difficulties.—*Times.*

New Zealand.—For fifty years after Cook planted the British flag upon this fine country, our intercourse with it was confined to the occasional visits of whaling ships.

Switzerland is a land which, when once visited, will ever after recur to the mind, like the feelings of a first and deep love. Others may be sweet, but none will ever rest so green in the memory, or will come back upon the heart with such momentary thrills of old feelings—such vividness of recollection—and such strong, though brief, yearnings of affection, amidst all the after waste of years, and all the coldness and tranquillity that change and the reality of things bring in their course, as time dissolves the dreams of our earlier years, and disenchant the spells of fancy and of hope.—*Mrs. Bray.*

Nations, like diamonds, are nowadays polished faster and otherwise than of yore. While men formerly could be smoothed and rounded only by long lapse of time, tediously, as of old the diamonds in the stream; now they may, like the diamond on diamond dust, by that which books hold before them—the past, or rather the presence of great men, as it were on their ashes,—attain to a purer shape.—*Jean Paul Richter.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Accepted: "Reminiscences of Sterne: Tristram Shandy."—Several others have been received.

Ineligible: "The Polish Exile," by Mr. F.—"Letter on Henry Kirke White,"—"*When I was a Child*,"—"*On History*," by a *Peruser*.—"On Beauty,"—"The Soldier's Return," by William.—"*Lines*," by *Amor Fideles*.

LONDON: Published by HUGH CUNNINGHAM, 1, St. Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square; and sold by all Bookellers and News-men.—In PARIS, by all the Bookellers.—In FRANKFORT, by Charles Jugel. T. C. Savill, Printer, 107, St. Martin's Lane.